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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Shipyard and Railroad Construction

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Railroads

1. On 1 June, in the presence of Lt. General Dobri Terpechev, President of the Supreme Economic Council, work was commenced on a new railroad line which is to link the town of Troyan with Lovech in Northern Bulgaria. It is planned to complete this work by September 1948. The 8th ("General Vladimir Zaimov") Battalion of Voluntary Workers ("brigadiri"), with a present strength of 900, which forms part of the Georgi Dimitrov Youth Brigade of Volunteer Workers, is to undertake this construction.

2. Work is also proceeding on a section of the railroad which is to link Pernik and Voluyak in the Sofia region. This line includes the section between Pernik, Voluyak and Sofia. The most difficult part of the line is Tunnel No. 3, which will be built by the 1st Varna Battalion of Volunteer Workers, who are working day and night on this job. By employing Workers' Battalions, the cost of these constructions will be materially decreased.

Shipyards

3. A small floating dock, designed to take ships of about 1,000 tons, of which construction had been started by the Germans, has now been finished by the Bulgarians and Soviets. It is kept at Varna.

4. A small cargo ship of about 1,000 tons has just been completed at Varna. In addition, three or four small motor vessels of 600 to 800 tons are being built and will be completed shortly.

5. When the SS "First of May" arrived at Varna last May she was searched by one Soviet and one Bulgarian policeman in plain clothes. They were looking principally for correspondence and printed matter, all of which was confiscated when found.

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